

NEWARK
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEWARK'S ANNUAL HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION TO EXAMINE
ITALIANS AND THE HOLOCAUST**

Of some 50,000 Jewish residents in Italy prior to the Second World War, some 85 percent managed to survive in a country allied with the Nazi regime of Adolph Hitler. They lived because individual Italians and networks of high placed persons in the Italian clergy and beauracracy went to great lengths, even risking their own lives, to save their fellow citizens.

According to Nicola Caracciolo, Italian journalist and author of *Uncertain Refuge: Italy and the Jews During the Holocaust*, not only did Italians assist Jews during the war, but between 1945 and 1948, among all the European countries, Italy was the one that did the most to help and promote the clandestine emigration to Palestine of the Jews saved from the Holocaust.

This story of Italy and the courage of Italians during this bleak chapter in world history is the theme for the City of Newark's 11th annual Holocaust Commemorative Observance, which will be held Thursday, April 23 beginning at 12 noon in St. Lucy's Church, 117 Seventh Avenue. Andrea Grover, an adjunct associate professor of humanities at New York University, where she teaches courses on Italy, with a special emphasis on Italian Jewry, is the keynote speaker. She will be joined by a Holocaust survivor, Ursula Selig, who as a young child was taken in and sheltered by an Italian family during the war.

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Mrs. Grover is a graduate of Rutgers Newark and holds a masters degree in Italian from New York University. She has lectured extensively throughout the metropolitan area including several speeches at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York on Jewish Italy and Jews in the Italian Literary Tradition. She currently is translating into English for the University of California Press an Italian book *Ebrei in Europa* (Jews In Europe) by Anna Foa. The book is slated to be published in late 1998.

The Holocaust program also will feature readings from Italian Jewish survivors and those who rescued them by the students of St. Lucy's School and musical presentations by the Newark Boys Chorus Apprentice Choir. Msgr. Joseph Granata will deliver the invocation and Rabbi ???? will offer the benediction.

Mayor Sharpe James, who is hosting this commemoration, said, "It is only fitting that we hold this program in the very beautiful St. Lucy's Church, which is so very special to Newark's Italian community, and share with our children, their parents and other adults the seldom told story of the compassion shown by individual Italians to their Jewish countrymen during World War II."

Immediately following the service, a light luncheon/reception, sponsored by the North Ward Center will be held in the church hall. Parking is available adjacent to the church.

For information, please call (973) 733-6368.

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